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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES*

(covering its work during 1997)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fayssal MEKDAD (Syrian Arab Republic)

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* The present document contains chapters I and II of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. Other chapters of the report have been issued separately in documents A/52/23 (Parts II to VII). The complete report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/52/23).

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

19 September 1997

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/146 of 13 December 1996. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 1997.

(Signed) Utula Utuoc SAMANA
Chairman of the Special Committee
on the Situation with regard to
the Implementation of the Declaration
on the Granting of Independence to
Colonial Countries and Peoples

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

"22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

"(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

"(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

"23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fifty-first session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly, on 13 December 1996, adopted resolution 51/146, in which it, inter alia:

"5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1996, including the programme of work envisaged for 1997;[4]

"...

"11. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

"(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(d) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"12. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"13. Also calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1997 session;".

9. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted nine other resolutions, one consensus and three decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	51/143	13 December 1996
New Caledonia	51/144	13 December 1996
Tokelau	51/145	13 December 1996
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	51/224 A and B	27 March 1997

Consensus

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	51/430	13 December 1996

Decisions

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
East Timor	51/402	20 September 1996
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	51/407	25 October 1996

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	51/139	13 December 1996
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	51/140	13 December 1996
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	51/141	13 December 1996
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	51/142	13 December 1996
Dissemination of information on decolonization	51/147	13 December 1996

3. Decision concerning other questions

Question	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	51/427	13 December 1996

10. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of East Timor" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session (see decision 51/402).

11. At its 41st plenary meeting, on 25 October 1996, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session (decision 51/407).

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1855).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

13. As at 1 January 1997, the Special Committee was composed of the following 22 members:

Chile	Congo
China	Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba	Papua New Guinea
Ethiopia	Russian Federation
Fiji	Sierra Leone
Grenada	Syrian Arab Republic
India	Trinidad and Tobago
Indonesia	Tunisia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	United Republic of Tanzania
Iraq	Venezuela
Mali	Yugoslavia

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 1997 appears in documents A/AC.109/INF/35 and Corr.1 and A/AC.109/INF/35/Add.1.

14. At the 94th plenary meeting, on 27 March 1997, the President of the General Assembly drew attention to a letter dated 24 January 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations addressed to him (A/51/799), containing a request by Saint Lucia to be admitted to membership in the Special Committee. The President informed the Assembly that, having held the necessary consultations with the regional groups, he had nominated Saint Lucia as a member of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to take note of that nomination.

15. At the 96th plenary meeting, on 18 April 1997, the President of the General Assembly drew attention to a letter dated 24 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations addressed to him (A/51/843), containing a request by Antigua and Barbuda to be admitted to membership in the Special Committee. The President informed the Assembly that, having held the necessary consultations with the regional groups, he had

nominated Antigua and Barbuda as a member of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to take note of that nomination.

16. At the 99th plenary meeting, on 21 May 1997, the President of the General Assembly drew attention to a letter dated 3 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to him (A/51/862), containing a request by Bolivia to be admitted to membership in the Special Committee. The President informed the Assembly that, having held the necessary consultations with the regional groups, he had nominated Bolivia as a member of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to take note of that nomination.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 1997 and election of officers

17. The representative of the Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its opening (1466th) meeting, on 16 January 1997. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1466).

18. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Mr. Moctar Ouane (Mali)

Rapporteur: Mr. Farouk Al-Attar (Syrian Arab Republic)

19. Following the death of Mr. Farouk Al-Attar on 5 May 1997, the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, unanimously elected Mr. Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) as Rapporteur.

C. Organization of work

20. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to integrate its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance into the Special Committee and that the meetings of the Bureau, which would function as a steering committee, would be open-ended.

21. By adopting the Chairman's suggestions referred to above, the Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (A/AC.109/L.1856, paras. 2 and 3).

22. Statements relating to the organization of work were made at the 1466th meeting, on 16 January, by the Chairman and by the representatives of Indonesia, Portugal, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Cuba; at the 1473rd meeting, on 12 June, by the Chairman; at the 1481st meeting, on 20 June, by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Cuba, as well as by the Chairman; and at the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1466, 1473, 1481 and 1483).

23. At the 1474th meeting, on 16 June, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina and Paraguay had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

24. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the Special Committee took further decisions relating to its organization of work.

25. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Argentina had expressed the wish to participate in the closing meeting of the Special Committee. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

26. The Special Committee was invited to attend the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi on 7 and 8 April 1997 (see also para. 91 below).

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

27. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

28. The Special Committee held 18 meetings at Headquarters during 1997, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1466th meeting, 16 January; 1467th (closed) meeting, 24 February; and 1468th meeting, 30 April;

(b) Second part of the session: 1469th to 1481st meetings, 30 May to 20 June; 1482nd (closed) meeting, 9 July, and 1483rd meeting, 16 September.

29. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	Meetings	Decision
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	1469, 1472	A/52/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 10
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73e of the Charter of the United Nations	1469, 1470	A/52/23 (Part IV), chap. VIII, para. 9
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico	1479,1480 1481	A/52/23 (Part I), chap. I, paras. 37 and 39
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	1471, 1472, 1473, 1481	A/52/23 (Part VI), chap. X, para. 20
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	1478, 1483	A/52/23 (Part III), chap. V, para. 12
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in territories under their administration	1478, 1483	A/52/23 (Part III), chap. VI, para. 11
Gibraltar	1470	A/52/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 19
East Timor	1474-1477	A/52/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 14
New Caledonia	1470	A/52/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 31
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1470, 1474	A/52/23 (Part VII), chap. XI, para. 14
Western Sahara	1470	A/52/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 30
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	1483	A/52/23 (Part IV), chap. VII, para. 14

2. Subsidiary bodies

(a) Subcommittee on Small Territories, Information and Assistance

30. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to integrate its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance into the Special Committee.

(b) Working Group and Open-ended Bureau

31. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to abolish its Working Group and to entrust its functions to the Bureau, which became open-ended.

32. During the period covered by the present report, the Open-ended Bureau held four meetings and submitted one report (A/AC.109/L.1868).

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

33. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,[5] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 1997, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee further recalled that, by paragraph 5 of its resolution 51/146, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 1997.

34. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the question on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of its Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868); the relevant paragraph of which reads as follows:

> "10. The Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend that the Special Committee continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-second session."

35. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation of the Open-ended Bureau.

Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico[6]

36. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it in plenary meetings.

37. At its 1479th meeting, on 19 June, on the proposal of the Open-ended Bureau, the Special Committee decided to give due consideration to requests for hearing on the basis of its usual practice.

38. At the same meeting, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. On the basis of the decision taken earlier in the meeting, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and, at the 1479th, 1480th and 1481st meetings, on 19 and 20 June, heard the representatives of the organizations concerned, as indicated below:

1479th meeting

Ms. Manuel Fermin Arraiza, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico
Ms. Iris B. Alfonso, National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights
Ms. Lolita Lebron, on behalf of Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico
Mr. Fernando Martín-Garcia, Puerto Rican Independence Party
Ms. Maribal Rodriguez, on behalf of Comité Puerto Rico 98
Mr. Carlos Vizcarrondo Irizarry, Comisión Autonomista Puertorriqueña
Mr. Noel Cólon Martínez, on behalf of Congreso Nacional Hostosiano
Mr. Anibal Acevedo Vila, Popular Democratic Party
Mr. Gilberto Gerena-Valentin, on behalf of Puerto Rico on Human Rights.

1480th meeting

Mr. Juan A. Robles Ortega, Federación Central de Trabajores
Mr. Pablo Marcano Garcia, on behalf of Comité Unitario en Contra de la Represión y para la Defensa de los Prisioneros Políticos
Reverend S. Michael Yasutake, Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project
Ms. Raquel Rivera, on behalf of Puerto Rico Collective
Mr. Frank J. Guzman, Latinos y Latinas de Ambiente
Mr. Jose J. Rivera, Estadidad 2000
Ms. Elsie Valdes de Lizardi, League of United Latin American Citizens of Puerto Rico
Mr. Juan Carlos Lizardi, Puertorriqueños ante la ONU
Ms. Miriam Santiago de Crespi, Puertorricans Pro-Statehood, Inc.
Mr. Ramon Luis Crespi, Organization of Professionals Pro-Equal Rights
Mr. Diego M. Santiago, Puerto Rican Initiative to Develop Empowerment
Mr. Emilio A. Soler Mari, Acción Democrática Puertorriqueña
Ms. Gilma Camargo, on behalf of Center for Constitutional Rights
Ms. Josefina Rodriguez, National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners
Reverend Dr. C. Nozomi Ikuta, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
Mr. Celso Hernandez Mojica, Ofensiva 92

1481st meeting

Mr. Enrique Fernandez, on behalf of Mr. Luis V. Gutierrez, Member of the United States Congress

39. At its 1481st meeting, on 20 June, on the proposal of the Open-ended Bureau, the Special Committee decided to extend the postponement of the item until 1998, pending the outcome of other consultations and subsequent steps that are continuing to be taken at various levels by interested parties.

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

40. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda an item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it in its plenary meetings.

41. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 51/146, by paragraph 11 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

42. During the year, the Special Committee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see chaps. IX-XI of the present report, A/52/23 (Parts V-VII)).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

43. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

44. The Special Committee took that decision into account in its consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

45. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate and to refer it to its Open-ended Bureau for consideration and recommendations.

46. Having regard to its programme of work for 1998, the Special Committee, at its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the

Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. Also at its 1478th meeting, by approving the recommendations contained in the report of its Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1998 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure.

4. Pattern of conferences

47. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to refer it to its Open-ended Bureau for consideration and recommendations. In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

48. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-mémoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the official documents issued by the Special Committee in 1997 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

49. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the item on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "5. The Open-ended Bureau noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 51/211 of 18 December 1996. By organizing its programme of work effectively, holding extensive consultations and having integrated the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Open-ended Bureau recommended that the Special Committee continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.
>
> "6. The Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1998, the Committee consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Plenary

January/February	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) Bureau

January/July	20 meetings

"7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1998, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Open-ended Bureau recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, strive to keep its meetings to a minimum."

50. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

5. Control and limitation of documentation

51. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

"8. The Open-ended Bureau noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984 and 51/211 B of 18 December 1996. The Open-ended Bureau recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee streamline its report to the Assembly.

"9. By its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim record by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it maintain its summary records."

52. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

53. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of New Zealand and Portugal, as representatives of the administering Powers concerned, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee, as reflected in chapters IX and X of the present report (A/52/23 (Parts V and VI)).

54. The delegations of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee.[7] However, as a result of informal consultations with the

Special Committee held during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly in November 1996 and January-March 1997, which resulted in the adoption by the Assembly on 27 March 1997 of a consolidated resolution on small territories without a vote, the delegations of two latter administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee on the question.

55. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 1472nd meeting, on 12 June, adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1860, on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution (A/AC.109/2095), the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see chap. IV, para. 10, of the present report, A/52/23 (Part II)).

56. In the course of informal consultations on the text of draft resolution initially entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination", the Special Committee reached an agreement with the European Union which made it possible to adopt a revised text of the resolution entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing territories" (A/AC.109/2098).

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

57. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work on the basis of recommendations contained in the report of its Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the relevant paragraph of which reads as follows:

> "13. The Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend that the Special Committee consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate."

58. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

59. Information on the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights is contained in chapter III, paragraph 8, of the present report (A/52/23 (Part II)).

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

60. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the following recommendation contained in the report of its Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868):

> "4. The Open-ended Bureau proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 16 January 1997, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Open-ended Bureau also recommended that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1998."

61. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

62. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1856) and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 1996 session[8] in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

63. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

11. Regional seminars of the Special Committee

64. On 24 February, the Special Committee held its 1467th (closed) meeting to review the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation into seminars of the Special Committee (A/51/486, annex). The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, who attended the meeting at the invitation of the Special Committee, made a statement and responded to questions posed to him by the members of the Special Committee, as well as by the Chairman.

65. On 14 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2085, annex) in which he provided further response to the questions posed by the members of the Special Committee at its 1467th (closed) meeting.

66. At its 1469th meeting, on 30 May, the Chairman drew attention to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation into seminars of the Special Committee (A/51/486, annex), as well as to a letter addressed to him by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

67. At the same meeting, the Chairman also drew attention to his draft report on regional seminars (subsequently issued as A/AC.109/2085).

68. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Papua New Guinea, the Syrian Arab Republic and India, as well as by the Chairman and the Director of the General Assembly Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat (see A/AC.109/SR.1469).

69. At its 1470th meeting, on 6 June, the Special Committee adopted the report of the Chairman on regional seminars of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2085) and authorized the Chairman to transmit it to the President of the General Assembly and to the Secretary-General. In the report, the Chairman reaffirmed that the seminars had become an important instrument for the effective discharge of the mandate of the Special Committee and the only available means to ascertain the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories. The report also concluded that the Office of Internal Oversight Services had found no misuse or mismanagement of funds.

12. Decolonization programme in the United Nations system

70. At the 1470th meeting, on 6 June, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution entitled "Decolonization programme in the United Nations system" (A/AC.109/L.1862) submitted by Papua New Guinea.

71. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to waive the 24-hour rule under rule 78 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to consider draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1862.

72. The delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Grenada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mali, Saint Lucia and Venezuela became sponsors of the draft resolution. The representative of Portugal, an administering Power, also requested that it be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

73. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1862 by consensus (A/AC.109/2094).

74. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2094) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997, appears below:

"The Special Committee,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, entitled 'International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism', and all other relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions,

"Mindful of the statement made by the Secretary-General on 17 March 1997 regarding the administrative reforms of the Secretariat,

"Reaffirming the political nature and substance of its mandate,

"Concerned that the proposed administrative changes could jeopardize, downgrade and undermine the United Nations decolonization programme,

"1. Urges the Secretary-General to continue to avail the Decolonization Branch of all necessary and adequate financial, human and technical resources;

"2. Also urges the Secretary-General to maintain the Decolonization Branch and all its functions pertaining to the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in the Department of Political Affairs."

13. Other questions

75. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1855, paras. 11 and 12).

76. That decision was taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Farouk Al-Attar

77. At its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Special Committee paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Farouk Al-Attar, former Rapporteur of the Special Committee, who had died on 5 August 1997.

78. The Chairman made a statement, the Chairman requested the Special Committee to stand for one minute in silent tribute to the memory of late Mr. Al-Attar. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chile, Bolivia, Tunisia, Indonesia, New Zealand (administering Power), Grenada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Portugal (administering Power), the Russian Federation, Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as by the representatives of Argentina and the Office of the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

Volcanic eruption in Montserrat

79. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman, on behalf of the Special Committee, extended deepest sympathy to the Government and people of Montserrat for the tragic loss of life and extensive injuries to its people, as well as for the extensive material damage resulting from the series of volcanic eruptions in the Territory.

80. At the same meeting, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided to accede to the request of the Citizens and Friends of Montserrat to transmit their petitions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.

81. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chairman, as well as by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

82. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 51/141 relating to the item, consultations were held during the year between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Further, the representative of the Special Committee participated in the Council's consideration of the related item. An account of the foregoing, and of the Special Committee's consideration of the item is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/52/23 (Part IV)).

2. Commission on Human Rights

83. During the year, the Special Committee followed closely the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

84. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions 1997/5, 1997/14, 1997/17, 1997/30, 1997/31, 1997/63 and 1997/72; and resolution 1997/22 on the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the Subcommission's report.[9] The Special Committee also took into account the Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/63 adopted on the situation of human rights in East Timor. It also took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in East Timor and the appointment of Mr. Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan) as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for East Timor.[10] The Special Committee also took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 51/64, 51/71, 51/73 to 51/84, 51/91, 51/99, 51/105, 51/118 and 51/119 of 12 December 1996.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

85. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 93 and 94 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

86. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee held consultations during the year with officials of several organizations. An account of those consultations and of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/52/23 (Part IV)).

87. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in chapters VII and X of the present report (see A/52/23 (Parts IV and VI)).

5. Organization of African Unity

88. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of OAU and maintained close liaison with its General Secretariat on matters of common interest.

6. Caribbean Community

89. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of CARICOM and maintained close liaison with its secretariat on matters of common interest.

7. South Pacific Forum

90. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the South Pacific Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

91. The Chairman represented the Special Committee at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi on 7 and 8 April 1997.

9. Non-governmental organizations

92. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 51/146 and 51/147, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The related decisions of the Special Committee are reflected in chapter III of the present report (see A/52/23 (Part II)).

H. Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

93. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 1997 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

94. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (see resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

95. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including in particular General Assembly resolution 51/81 of 12 December 1996 and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.[11]

96. In a related context, the Special Committee took into account during the year the relevant provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1997/73 and 1997/74 concerning implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

I. Review of work

97. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, were again pursued in 1997. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, the Special Committee held extensive consultations with the administering Powers concerned and other States as well as with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. As in previous years, the Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (A/AC.109/2097, resolutions A and B; see chap. X, paras. 19 and 20, of the present report (A/52/23 (Part VI))).

98. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2095), information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2092), economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2098) and implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/2100), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2099).

99. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a regional seminar at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, in May 1997 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991.

100. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

101. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2091) which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-second session (see chap. III of the present report, A/52/23 (Part II)).

102. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee decided to defer consideration of that decision until 1998, pending the outcome of other consultations and subsequent steps that are continuing to be taken at various levels by the interested parties. However, in accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau, endorsed by the Special Committee at its 1479th meeting, on 19 June, the Special Committee heard statements by representatives of organizations concerned.

103. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce to a minimum the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

104. In an effort to streamline its work further, early in its 1997 session, the Special Committee implemented its decision to integrate the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance into the Special Committee. It also decided to make meetings of its Bureau open-ended. As a result of these changes, the Open-ended Bureau of the Special Committee in effect replaced its Working Group.

J. Future work

105. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and subject to any further directives that it may receive from the Assembly during its fifty-second session, the Special Committee intends during 1998 to pursue its efforts in seeking the best ways and means for the implementation of the Declaration in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination. In particular, the Special Committee will keep under review developments concerning each Territory, as well as the compliance by all States, in particular the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. On the basis of that review, the Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

106. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181. The activities to be undertaken in this connection include a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Special Committee in 1998, to be attended by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

107. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens, the Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. The Special Committee believes also that the issues facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as environmental problems; the impact of natural disasters such as hurricanes and volcanoes and other environmental problems such as beach and coastal erosion, and droughts on these Territories; the ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of marine resources of the Territories and the need for the utilization of these resources for the benefits of their peoples should remain in the focus of its attention. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990 (see A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030, A/AC.109/2058 and A/AC.109/2089).

108. It is the Special Committee's intention to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the action taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. It will also be guided by the results of consultations held in 1997 and those to be held in 1998 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. The Special Committee is encouraged by the increasing number of co-sponsors of the draft resolution on the subject which was adopted by the Council in July 1997. Further, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the Secretaries-General and senior officials of regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions where the majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are located. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the

specialized agencies and the regional organizations in their assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those regions.

109. The Special Committee intends to take into account the agreement reached with the European Union on the resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2098) and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected. The Special Committee will continue its study of military activities and arrangements in the Territories and also to cooperate with interested States in this regard.

110. In its resolutions relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly has repeatedly called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the people concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers on the matter.

111. Taking into consideration its mandate over Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

112. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Special Committee within the existing resources.

113. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years, as well as its probable workload for 1998, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 1998, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

114. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 1998. The Special Committee is gratified that the informal consultations it held with the administering Powers (United Kingdom and the United States) and the European Union concluded in an agreement on the consolidated draft resolution on small territories and draft resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, respectively. It intends to pursue these

consultations which, hopefully, will be transformed into formal cooperation. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In this connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly again request the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. Bearing in mind the affirmation by the Assembly that direct association of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies is an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories towards a position of equality with Member States of the United Nations, the Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee of the items relating to their respective Territories. Further, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

115. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities the Special Committee envisages for 1998. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1998 and 1999 based on the level of activities approved for the year 1997, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made for its approval to the General Assembly. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 1997 session

116. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee decided to request the Rapporteur to prepare the present report and to submit it directly to the General Assembly, in accordance with established practice.

117. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Argentina had requested to participate in the concluding session of the Special Committee. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

118. At the same meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 1997 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1483). The statements were also made by the representatives of Chile and Argentina.

Notes

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

[2] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-first sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23); and ibid., Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23).

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23).

[4] Ibid., chap. I, sect. J.

[5] Ibid., chap. I, para. 92.

[6] Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23), chap. I, para. 56.

[7] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[8] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23), chap. I, paras. 66 and 67.

[9] E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41 and E/CN.4/1997/79.

[10] E/CN.4/1997/51 and Add.1.

[11] E/1996/83 and A/51/541.

Annex

LIST OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/INF/35 and Corr.1 and Add.1	List of delegations	27 May 1997 3 June 1997 10 June 1997
A/AC.109/2071	St. Helena (working paper)	15 April 1997
A/AC.109/2072	Pitcairn (working paper)	28 April 1997
A/AC.109/2073	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism - Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997: guidelines and rules of procedure	12 March 1997
A/AC.109/2074	New Caledonia (working paper)	20 March 1997
A/AC.109/2075	Bermuda (working paper)	23 April 1997
A/AC.109/2076	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	13 May 1997
A/AC.109/2077	Anguilla (working paper)	30 May 1997
A/AC.109/2078	Montserrat (working paper)	27 May 1997
A/AC.109/2079 and Add.1	East Timor (working paper)	21 May 1997 11 June 1997
A/AC.109/2080	American Samoa (working paper)	3 June 1997
A/AC.109/2081	Cayman Islands (working paper)	21 May 1997
A/AC.109/2082	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	21 May 1997
A/AC.109/2083	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	20 May 1997
A/AC.109/2084	Gibraltar (working paper)	21 May 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/2085	Regional seminars of the Special Committee: report of the Special Committee	10 June 1997
A/AC.109/2086	Guam (working paper)	30 May 1997
A/AC.109/2087	Western Sahara (working paper)	30 May 1997
A/AC.109/2088	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	3 June 1997
A/AC.109/2089	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997	3 June 1997
A/AC.109/2090	Tokelau (working paper)	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2091	Dissemination of Information on Decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2092	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2093	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2094	Decolonization programme in the United Nations system: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2095	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1472nd meeting, on 12 June 1997	12 June 1997
A/AC.109/2096	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1474th meeting, on 16 June 1997	16 June 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/2097	Question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: consolidated resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1481st meeting, on 20 June 1997	20 June 1997
A/AC.109/2098	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997	16 September 1997
A/AC.109/2099	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997	16 September 1997
A/AC.109/2100	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997	16 September 1997

Documents issued in the limited series

A/AC.109/L.1855	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	10 January 1997
A/AC.109/L.1856	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	10 January 1997
A/AC.109/L.1857	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	4 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1858	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	4 June 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/L.1859	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: report of the Chairman	10 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1860	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	10 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1861	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	5 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1862	Decolonization programme in the United Nations system: draft resolution submitted by Papua New Guinea	5 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1863	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1864	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	12 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1865	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Chairman	12 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1866	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: report of the Chairman	13 August 1997
A/AC.109/L.1867	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	13 August 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/L.1868	Report of the Open-ended Bureau	17 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1869	Question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	18 June 1997

CHAPTER II

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

1. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

2. At its 1468th, 1478th and 1481st meetings, on 30 April and 18 and 20 June 1997, respectively, the Special Committee considered the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" and the Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the organization of the Special Committee's work for the year (A/AC.109/L.1856), decided to allocate to the Open-ended Bureau and plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

4. On 12 March, the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2073) were issued.

5. A detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, which was held at St. John's from 21 to 23 May 1997, as well as a summary of the discussions held, is contained in the report of the Seminar prepared by its Rapporteur (A/AC.109/2089). The report includes the topics discussed at the Seminar, as well as the list of participants.

6. At the 1481st meeting, on 20 July, the Chairman drew attention to the report of the Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1481).

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take note of the report of the Seminar (A/AC.109/2089).

8. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the International Decade on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

"11. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it organize in 1998 a seminar in the Pacific region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"12. The Open-ended Bureau further decided to recommend that the Special Committee invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session."

9. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.